

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, FOR A SOCIETY OF FARMERS, AT QUINCY HALL, SOUTH MARKET STREET—WM. BUCKMINSTER, OF FRAMINGHAM, EDITOR.

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NO. 34.

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN. AND THE YANKEE FARMER.

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AGRICULTURE.

TILLING AMONG YOUNG TREES.

A correspondent tells us that he could not readily procure any tiller to place around the trunks of his young trees, and that as he has planted the field where he set them with corn and potatoes he thought tiller would be in his way in tilling.

We think there might be a quantity around each tree that would not interfere with the crop. But he should endeavor to keep his soil about his young trees as moist as possible whether he uses tiller or not. Next to covering the earth with something to check evaporation and to keep the soil both moist and light, ploughing and stirring often through the summer will be found best. If you have the least doubt about the effect of ploughing and hoeing often, just try the plan, let the book farmers say what they will.

It is not very easy to explain why the frequent moving of the soil, and that to a considerable depth, should have an effect precisely the reverse of what is observed when we often move other materials and expose them to the air. Hay will dry twice as fast when we stir it and let the air in as when we let it lie with once spreading over the ground. Litter of any kind, leaves, manures, will dry up fast in proportion to their exposure to the atmosphere.

But it is certain that all soils are so constituted that frequent stirring keeps them more moist than when they are allowed to lie still. We have known practical farmers to delay hoeing their corn in a dry time for fear they should render the soil more dry to the injury of the harvest. They may have reasoned from what they had observed in regard to the stirring of other substances. Experiments on a very small scale will convince them that stirring the unweeded earth will not, in a dry time, make it more dry.

If no litter has been placed about the trees, at this spring, keep the earth well tilled both for the sake of your trees and your harvest. When you plough among your trees you should always muffle the ends of the whiffle tree to prevent galling or tearing of the bark. It is almost impossible to avoid it without this precaution.

BEES—QUEEN BEE.

Mr. Edmund Smith, of Brighton, has shown us a swarm of bees that died last winter, as he thinks, in consequence of cold weather, though he is of the opinion that full swarms seldom die of cold.

He points out to us among the bees on the comb, the queen. He had understood that we denied the doctrine commonly received in regard to queen bees. We do not recollect that we have ever given an opinion on this point, though we have admitted communications of writers who doubted the existence of queens.

Mr. Smith is confident from his own observation that the queen bee lays all the eggs for new swarms, and he is satisfied that a swarm will not flourish without a queen; there is no doubt of supplying the loss occasioned by death, &c.

It is very certain that the bees called queens are formed differently from the other individuals of the hive. They differ from the working bees and they differ from the drones. They have longer bodies than working bees have, yet their wings are not longer, hence they are not half covered up by their wings; they look more naked.

There is much evidence to prove that one bee only in a swarm lays all the eggs; yet this is no different from the nature of other insects that may have been led to doubt the fact. We cannot consider this as a question of so much importance to bee keepers as many others that we have not been discussed so much.

SCARE CROWS.

Some farmers scare crows with powder, some with old hats and cloaks hung upon stakes, some with twine strung around the field, some with grain that has been steeped in alcohol. Other farmers steep their seed in copper till it has lost the power to vegetate, others still coat the seed in tar so thick that the corn cannot burst the shell.

We have never found any advantage to arise from steeping or coating seed corn; it is safer to plant it dry. We once knew a benevolent old gentleman who practiced saving a quantity of corn over his field to induce the birds to live on that instead of dishonestly pulling up what was sown. He said his corn cost him less than scare crows.

BIRDS VS. CATERPILLARS.

On Sunday we saw, from our parlor window, on the top limb of an apple tree, a caterpillar's nest that had escaped the general havoc that had been made of their edifices two weeks before.

In a moment after a beautiful little robin alighted, and without ceremony began to pillage the contents of the nest. How many worms were abstracted we cannot say, but on examining the nest we found many holes perforated in it as you will see in any old target that has been fired at.

We have not yet quite enough robins in this vicinity to do the whole business, but they aid as much. When we have once been over the trees and broken up the nests, the birds find it easier to make an impression. If, in any New England district, there are more robins than caterpillars, drive them this way, if you please, and we will feed them gratis.

The cherry birds have already made our canker worms scarce. If you would have these worms multiply again, kill off the cherry birds in June; it will cost you nothing but powder, and shot, and time; while you will have the pleasure of mangling your cherry tree limbs and destroying more fruit than the birds would carry off.

APOLOGY FOR LAGGERS. A lady wrote said, a few days ago, she thought he was not doing to labor very hard.—A fortune teller, for assistance, had announced to him this exemption from the common lot, and he felt a kind of delicacy about the prophetic reputation of his friend.

ASHES OR LIME AROUND POSTS.

Where the articles are plenty and cheap it is good economy to put some lime or ashes around the posts of fences to prevent rotting. In some dry soils they will become so rotten in four or five years that they are easily broken off at the surface of the ground, while the tops will last for fifty years.

It seems proper therefore to take some care to prevent the rapid decay of posts just at the surface of the soil where they are most exposed to alternate moisture and drought. It is this frequent wetting and drying that causes such rapid decay; for posts set in a wet meadow will last much longer at the bottom than at the top. And posts in a moist clayey soil will last three times as long as in a dry gravelly or sandy soil. Posts kept perfectly wet or dry will last longest.

Worms are often found in timber at the surface of the ground, and they seem in weakening the timber. It is owing to this that ashes are so useful in preserving the posts when set in the ground.

Whether it will pay to place some substance, as ashes, lime, charcoal or cinders around the foot of posts in common or cheap fences, each owner is fully satisfied that much may be saved. Any kind of post will last twice as long in dry ground, with ashes about the bottom of it, as without. Now is the time of year to make the trial.

THE PEACH WORM OR BORER.

We are desirous that our readers should be acquainted with this worm and its habits; and as the drawing takes up but a precious little room in our columns—not a fiftieth part so much as an elephant or a Durham bull, which after all are more show than use—we shall be excused though we exhibit him more than once.

In our last paper we gave a very accurate account of the male and female moths or flies that hover about the trees in summer and lay their eggs where nature has taught them their young will be likely to find food. The flies lay their eggs near the roots of the trees or on the limbs that are wounded and bruised, whence issue the rich gum of the tree. We have found the worms in the lumps of gum on the body of the tree.

But generally you will find these worms under the surface of the ground and prying upon the roots of the peach tree. These worms are not properly borers; they are not formed to enter, like the apple tree borer, into the heart of the tree, or to drill a round hole in the sapwood; but they work upon the bark and the sapwood and girdle completely the main roots of the tree.

If you dig about your trees at this season you may find the worms of all lengths, from nearly one inch to one fourth of an inch. They are whitish in the body, with yellow heads. They have legs, while apple tree borers have none, and they are not formed for boring holes directly into the wood. The longest were from the early eggs, and the shortest ones were probably hatched as late as October.

Dr. Harris, of Cambridge, to whom we acknowledge our indebtedness for much of our information on the subject in question, supposes that the worm sometimes about one year—make the dependence before it becomes an insect; or at any rate that it lives through the winter before its change takes place.

MODES OF DESTROYING THE WORM. Much time has been spent in digging about the roots and putting to death this destroyer, but by cutting among the roots we cause the same mischief that is caused by the worm, we let the gum out. Strong lime would kill them if it could reach them uncovered, and perhaps there are many substances that would be fatal. But we find that boiling water may be poured upon the roots in large quantities without injuring them. A whole plant may be turned up to a single tree that was not three inches in diameter.

We are not certain how large a quantity of boiling water may be turned on with safety, but we have not yet known a tree killed by hot water. It is probable that any tree will bear enough hot water or soda to destroy the worms if proper care is taken to loosen the soil about the roots that the liquid may reach them. But the right way is to destroy the eggs or the young worms before they become large enough to do any mischief. And as the eggs are very generally laid at the roots of the tree, we can effect the object by placing something there that is offensive or destructive.

Tobacco leaves have been recommended, charcoal dust, hard coal ashes, blacksmith's ash ashes, or cinders, &c. &c. Lime is good as a destroyer; but ashes are still better, and they will prove beneficial to the tree while at the same time it will kill the worms.

When defects are found in the body of the tree and the gum is issuing out of wounds, it is advisable to clear out all the loose matter and put in clay mortar with a mixture of fresh manure from the cow yard.

We can afford to take some trouble to secure so rich a fruit as the peach. Nothing valuable can generally be obtained without labor.

These worms are sometimes found in cherry trees; though where peach trees are plenty they seem to prefer them to any other.

BORERS. Mr. Wm. Salisbury of Medford tells us that he destroys borers in his apple trees by igniting the common brimstone match and putting them into the holes bored by the worm so as to fumigate him in his burrow. He first clears out the hole as well as he can, and when he has lighted his match he inserts it while the brimstone is burning.

We should think this a better plan than the one which has been so often recommended, to use a wire or a goose to cut out the worm. He says he finds, on trial, that this will kill the borer in the tree.

Our plan is to kill the young worms before they enter the bark; yet as some trees may have so many worms in them that they may die before the worms come out, in their natural course, it may be proper to try brimstone fumigation, and the little brimstone matches may be tried at small expense.

CAUTION TO FARMERS. Last week, four bullocks belonging to Mr. Lee of Newbury Farm, Crediton, died suddenly without apparent cause. Mr. Reed, veterinarian, surgeon, found, on searching their stomachs, a quantity of the common yew (Taxus bacata), mixed with the other food. On opening the skull, the membranes of the brain appeared in a very congested state, the poison having acted on the brain and nervous system, producing symptoms resembling apoplexy. A few days before, Mr. Lee had cut down a yew tree, and two or three of the faggots were accidentally left where the animals had free access, and having been for some time deprived of green fodder, they eat it with great avidity. [Western Luminary.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. EDITOR.—As you are presumed, by your subscribers at least, to know every thing, I must trouble you for an answer to a single question. On seed papers and in books I find the direction not to plant the "different kinds of squashes near each other," nor near melons, cucumbers, gourds, &c. Now what are we to understand by such cases? Does it mean that they must not be planted so near that the vines will touch each other, or what does it mean? I want an answer in feet and inches.

NEW MOOD OF DESTROYING CATERPILLARS. It is to take a cob, (the best brush) an old tin nail fixed with a hook to hang upon the branches, and a light ladder long enough to reach to the tops of the trees—and with this apparatus collect carefully all the caterpillars and their nests. The contents of the old tin nail make excellent bait, equal to any powder.

ON DRY. An excellent neighbor of mine, and a good farmer, (estimated by our standards,) remarked to me this week, that for any one to follow the directions of any agricultural publication is like five years' spade work in this town, and ruin to his owner! Had I better lend him the Ploughman?

AGRICOLA.

West Newbury, May 11.

WE may not be able to answer our correspondent satisfactorily on all points. He must not expect too much—he must not expect a hundred dollars worth of hints for two dollars in cash—he must not suppose that any one person "knows every thing," even should he profess as much.

The ground assumed by us is that we are all deficient in knowledge; that no one is too wise to learn; that we should therefore each one contribute a little to the storehouse of knowledge, and let it be circulated in every direction, that all may be equal partners.

And what is it that needs to be circulated in the farming community? The vagaries of eloquent farmers? The crude conceptions of chemists and learned doctors? The theories of men who are not practiced in the art which they set up to teach? No, no, no. Show your "excellent neighbor" the Ploughman, by all means. Tell him to try the Ploughman for a year and that in that term he will be satisfied we do not rely much on the advice of those who have no experience in the art which they attempt to teach.

We are aware of the strong prejudices which exist in the minds of many sensible farmers against reading a word on the subject of farming. And we are quite confident that we know the cause of this prejudice. How is it possible that a man who has been bred in a city, or to a profession which has not admitted of his acquiring experience in farming operations, can, from his own canon, recommend improved modes of farming to those who have followed the business from their youth up?

Yet we shall find that such men have written ten times as much on the subject as the practical farmers have. Even now you will find people who know not a hay-cart from a hand-barrow—a field of oats from a field of buckwheat—or a cow from an ox, publishing papers on farming and giving their sage advice to those who, in addition to equal capacity and means of information, have long practice on their side.

The consequence is what you would naturally expect. You find all kinds of whims circulated as improvements in farming. You find much from foreign books written by men who cannot judge of our farming systems. You find great outlays recommended here which cannot prove profitable. You find systems recommended that will not apply in this country.

Because the English have found lime beneficial in some districts where iron ore abounds, you find most of our papers in this country strenuously recommending lime for all kinds of soils, when it is well known by practical farmers that a large class of ironstone would be thrown into confusion and harm, and the credit of the country would be endangered by the sacrifice of £300,000 of revenue. Even the Whig Ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, Z. T. Baring, opposed the motion, declaring that the first taxes to be removed should be the duties on iron, tobacco, and particularly the tax upon windows, an impost upon the light of Heaven. Thus, you perceive, both Whigs and Tories unite in keeping up the present system. The motion was lost, in a house of 119, by a majority of 61.

Just before the division, Mr. Milner Gibson, the member for Manchester, pointed out the question to Sir Robert Peel, whether the repeal of the duty upon wool, necessarily followed the duty upon cotton, and whether it was not the premier's duty to repeal the duty upon wool, in a conversation with Yorkshire manufacturers last year, relative to the wool duties, he had not then said that the reduction of the duty on this article would necessarily follow the duty on cotton wool. He did not consider the two necessarily and indissolubly connected. This reply is as judicious as the usual answers of the Government, and it is a pity that the duty on cotton wool is not repealed, and the duty on wool is not increased, and the latter duties both direct and by stamps. The duty was opposed, and by the monopolists looked upon with horror.

Mr. Gibson made a admirable speech, when he introduced his motion for a committee to inquire into the benefits derived by the tenant-farmers and their laborers, has been much discussed in parliamentary circles, and considered to have changed a great impression even upon the most bigoted of the landlord class in the House of Commons. It has also called forth a feeling of respectful homage to his mind, from all sides of the seat.

CARE OF SOIL. A field containing about two acres was planted with corn by Mr. Harvey Hovens in Dennis, about a fortnight since. A storm of wind, a day or two after, blew off the light soil to so great an extent as to leave it extremely doubtful how much of the field remained planted. Mr. Hovens will have to wait with patience until he ascertains what requires to be replanted. It was estimated that not less than 500 loads of soil were removed.

What soil is this? [Yarmouth Register.]

DO WITH SUCH A SOIL? Why, cut out pine trees around the fields and check the wind. Pine will grow here as well as in a strong soil. Pine five feet in height will become broad logs in thirty years. Set out pines in the line of your fence. [Editor.]

WE should like to hear from "Agricola" again on the subject of the swollen ox. [Editor.]

WINTER GRAIN. From our own observation, and information obtained from others, we are gratified in being able to state that the prospect of a fine crop of wheat and rye was never better than at the present time. The wheat appears abundantly thick, and has a remarkably thrifty appearance. The same may be said of the rye. [Lexington Intel.]

FREE TRADE MOVEMENT IN PARLIAMENT.

Our readers will find something interesting in an extract from a letter to the publishers of the N. Y. Journal of Commerce, dated London, April 3.

In union with the free trade movement has been the important motion of Mr. Hunt, the member for Hull, asking leave to import corn from the British possessions in South Africa, India, and Australia, on the same terms on which Canadian grain is allowed to come into the United Kingdom. Last year, 1,500 quarters of wheat were introduced into this country from New South Wales; and though English grown wheat was fifteen shillings per quarter, the superior was the Van Dieman Land wheat, that it fetched fifty two shillings a quarter. It was, upon this, contended that the climate of Australia was peculiarly adapted for the growth of wheat, and that a handsome profit could be realized by the importer. The first cost of the wheat was 28 shillings the quarter, freight 10s., duty 5s., and other charges 5s., and here it was sold 62s., the quarter. I give this scale, because it will show the enormous gain which we know their future rivals, whenever the corn laws shall be abolished.

On the Ganges, it appears also, there is a fine tract of wheat-growing land, larger than Great Britain, which may become a great source of supply to this country. The wheat produced there could be shipped on the Ganges at from 16 to 20 shillings a quarter. Five thousand quarters were imported last year, and yielded a profit of 10s. South Africa, likewise, was shown by Mr. Hunt to possess a soil well adapted to the growth of wheat.

The government resisted the appeal for equal justice to all the colonies, on the ground that the clause of that exporting colonies, they had no right to expect any thing like a regular trade with them, and the mover had failed in making out a case, therefore, for re-opening the question of the corn laws. Such was the argument of Mr. Gladstone, the President of the Board of Trade; but Lord Stanley, the Secretary of the colonies, gave another reason, and which was a complete letting out of the truth.—He declared that the government could not do an extensive settlement for a comparatively unimportant object, and that the existing corn laws are an extensive settlement, and interests that were extensively settled. His lordship might have added that the monopolists in this country would take alarm, and upset the government if they attempted any such change. So the landlords are petted, and the colonists thrown overboard.

Another reason, and of course, the motion was rejected on the ground of its impracticability, and that imports of cotton and wool had greatly increased last year, and were, no doubt, likely to increase still more. The imports of cotton, in 1843 amounted to £4,300,000, and in 1842, £3,300,000 giving an increase of one million upon the year. The imports of wool, in 1843, amounted to £2,100,000, and in 1842, £1,800,000, giving an increase of £300,000. The imports of cotton and wool, in 1843, amounted to £6,400,000, and in 1842, £5,100,000, giving an increase of £1,300,000. The exports showed the same results, or corresponding increase. For they amounted in 1842 to £25,800,000, and in 1843 to £27,400,000, exhibiting an increase of £1,600,000 in value over the year 1842.

The main reason given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer for withholding his sanction to the motion, was that the duty on cotton wool, which monopoly has ever at hand, that a large class of ironstone would be thrown into confusion and harm, and the credit of the country would be endangered by the sacrifice of £300,000 of revenue. Even the Whig Ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, Z. T. Baring, opposed the motion, declaring that the first taxes to be removed should be the duties on iron, tobacco, and particularly the tax upon windows, an impost upon the light of Heaven. Thus, you perceive, both Whigs and Tories unite in keeping up the present system. The motion was lost, in a house of 119, by a majority of 61.

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What soil is this? [Yarmouth Register.]

DO WITH SUCH A SOIL? Why, cut out pine trees around the fields and check the wind. Pine will grow here as well as in a strong soil. Pine five feet in height will become broad logs in thirty years. Set out pines in the line of your fence. [Editor.]

WE should like to hear from "Agricola" again on the subject of the swollen ox. [Editor.]

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HOW TO PLANT AND COOK POTATOES.

Choose a loamy soil that's sandy.
"Throw manure broadcast and thick—
Sieracris should be handy.
That the work may go on quick,
It is best to plough in winter—
Deep ploughing is the only thing.
Use your labor without stint, or
'T will be double in the spring.

When you find the ground is drying
Let the kidneys then be freed
From the hole where they've been lying.
And select the best for seed.

Then in April, fall to planting
From the large potato heap;
Let no little hands be wanting,
They're good as men, and twice as cheap.

Do not cut the root to pieces,
Nor let it into plaster roll—
A kidney usually increases
Two fold, if you plant it whole.

Hills are best, for you can tend them
All around with plough or hoe—
Not too close or you will rend them,
And the effects will grow more so.

Keep down weeds and draw the hills up,
Let them have both rain and sun—
Then the plants grow well and fill up,
And your summer work is done.

Now before the ground is frozen,
Look out for a sloping spot,
Which, if dry, and rightly chosen,
Keeps the roots from frost and rot.

Six feet deep, the French have found out,
Rote will never germinate;
So, take the hint and dig the ground out,
When you want your planting late.

Having told you how to plant them,
Also how to lay them by,
Now for cooking, when you want them
For the table in July.

On the day you want to use them,
Take the kidneys from the ground,
Of a size, 'tis best to choose them,
Throwing out what are unsound.

Wash them clean and scrape the skin off,
One water never is enough;
Take the eyes and nibble this off,
And every little speck that's rough.

Do not let them lie in water,
(So the nice observers say)—
Not a minute—not a quarter,
That will take the taste away.

When the fire is burning brightly,
And the water's boiling hot,
Sprinkle table-salt in lightly,
Then put the kidneys in the pot.

Eighteen minutes—sometimes twenty,
Cooks them nicely to a turn;
Some say more, but let us learn,
Every one must live and learn.

Poor the water off, and set them
On hot coals that they may dry;
But, mercy on me! do not let them
Burn, or into pieces fly.

Others think that water is better,
And that the kidneys should be stewed;
But, alas! you'll find them better
When you have them fit to eat.

After mashing, do not smear them
On the top and all around,
For it is that way they can burn them,
Let the mass be one rough mound.

One thing more—don't cook too many,
Just boil enough for each to taste;
Remember two will cost a penny—
Better it is to want than waste.

When potatoes rot in plenty,
And hard times the poor distress,
Knowing that their food is scanty,
Give them now and then a treat.

[Southern Literary Messenger.]

REPRESENTATIVE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT to notice, a large number of the members of the Agricultural Society met at the Court House on Wednesday. The meeting was organized, Clark Hoxie, Esq., one of the Vice Presidents, in the chair. Considerable business was transacted. We understand that about 84 have become members of the Society, and have given notes for \$10 each, making \$840. The amount required to be raised, as far as the present year is concerned, is \$1000. It is not probable that the State offers is \$1000. It is not probable that there will be any difficulty in procuring a sufficient number of signers to make up the requisite capital. Indeed, we understand that two individuals have become responsible for the entire sum, with the reasonable expectation that there will be a sufficient number to take a part to remove the burden from their shoulders.

Frederic Souder, Esq., was chosen corresponding Secretary; and a Committee on Premiums, consisting of seven persons, was chosen, whose duty it will be to report at the adjourned meeting, the articles on which the Society will offer premiums; and a Committee on Premiums will then be chosen whose duty it will be to award the prizes.

The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Reed and Ois, on the subject of alteration of crops, &c., and was characterized throughout with a great degree of interest. There would probably have been a much larger number present, but for the adjournment of the Court on Tuesday instead of holding over Wednesday, as was expected. [Register.]

OSGEOG. The Western (Mo.) Examiner of the 4th ult., says:

About five hundred Oregon emigrants have passed through our town this week on their way to the place of general rendezvous. Amongst the number, we noticed one gentleman who has five negroes, which he intends taking with him. We understand that they were unwilling that he should sell them or leave them in this State, stating to their master, that they wished to go with him to his new home—that if Oregon should turn out to be a slave holding country, they still wanted to be his servants—and if it should prove to be otherwise, they still wished to live in his family and serve him still. Under those circumstances, he could not hesitate to take his old and faithful servants along with him, which he intends doing.

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BRITISH AGRICULTURE.

We make the following extract from Mr. Colman's first Report of what he has seen of the operation of the British system. [Ed.]

"I have referred to some differences in the condition of society here, and in the United States, and those differences it may be well to understand. The agricultural population in England is divided into three classes—the landlord, the tenant farmer or occupier, and the laborer.

1st. The Landlords; Rents; and Taxes.—The landlord is the owner of the soil. Most of the landlords are gentlemen, and are looked up to with a deference and veneration, on account of their rank with which those of us who have been educated in a condition of society where titles and ranks are unknown, find it difficult to sympathize. They own the land, and the tenant farmer or occupier, and the laborer.

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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 25, 1844.

William Buckminster, Editor.

CONNECTICUT STATE PRISON. The report of the labor of the convicts amount, for the last year, to \$6,809.92.

["We have made some progress in improvements in the modes of punishing criminals—there is no mistake in this. It is but a few years since criminals were huddled together in prisons, where all were in a fair way to learn of the most complete masters.

The objection to keeping prisoners in separate cells was, the great expense to the Commonwealth. We can remember when it was thought the State could not afford to build a prison with a separate cell for each prisoner, in order to prevent the formation of plots and conspiracies within the walls of the prison itself. Gangs of old and young were consequently stowed in together for the night, where the juvenile offenders were soon led to a knowledge of the arts of the most consummate villains.

But now many of the States find their account in making their State prisons large and commodious. In Massachusetts a separate cell is provided for the night for each of the prisoners, and labor is required of them through the day; and though the State is obliged to furnish a guard and overseer, yet the earnings of the prisoners have yielded a surplus far beyond all the necessary expenses.

In Connecticut it is seen that the net profits are nearly seven thousand dollars for the last year.—This is truly encouraging, for other States too will see their account in imitating the liberal systems that are found to prove so beneficial.

In such prisons as those of Connecticut and Massachusetts, the prisoners are far more healthy and comfortable than they would be in a close prison where they have nothing to do. Yet the idea of being compelled to labor for others is not so fascinating as to induce many to commit crimes merely for the purpose of procuring employment.

THE WEATHER. Our correspondent in Berkshire County writes to us that on Tuesday night it snowed as hard as on a hard day. The Albany Journal of Wednesday says the weather had suddenly changed, and that ice was found on the preceding night.

In this vicinity we have had some white frosts, and north of us Essex County, beans have been killed in low grounds; but it is believed that our apples and cherries have not yet suffered, nor has corn been bitten to injury. Yesterday morning the weather was mild and beautiful.

["It is understood that at the solicitation of our minister in England, Mr. Everett, the British Queen has pardoned ten of the Americans who were engaged in the Canada rebellion and sent off convicts to Van Diemen's land; the only condition is that the convicts have behaved well during their exile.

FIRE AT NEWBURYPORT. A fire broke out on Thursday morning between two and three o'clock, in a building on Wheelwright's wharf, which was nearly consumed. This is supposed to have been set by an incendiary as the building had not been occupied for two weeks.

QUICK TIME. The Nashville Gazette says, a blonning maiden was married to a gentleman in this city a few evenings since, and on the same night became the mother of three beautiful and healthy children! The law requires three witnesses to a will, but so many are not necessary on a wedding night.

FEES FOR UNCLE SAM. The barque Ohio arrived at Philadelphia on Saturday from Bordeaux, with a full cargo of brandy, the duties on which amount to \$40,000. These who drink must pay; the tariff operates well on brandy.

WATER RISING. A mill recently declared that during a most violent rain storm, the water in the ocean rose six inches—how knew this to be a fact for the Captain made a mark on the vessel.

["The Grand Mass Convention which takes place here on Thursday next, is much talked of. Washington delegates are expected from every State in the Union.

["The papers say, that the fire now from Boston to New York is \$2,500, and thence to Albany \$3,000, making \$5,500 through. While in the direct line to Albany you pay \$6.00.

["We learn that the Worcester and Western Railroads have agreed to reduce their fare on the day of the grand mass convention.

["The ladies of the Rev. Mr. Stinson's Society, Medford, will have a Breakfast and Fair at the Medford House, on the 12th of June.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

["Lewis & Sampson, 122 Washington street, have "Dr. Durbin's Travels in Europe," just published by Harper & Brothers, in two volumes. The reputation of the author, who is President of Dickinson College, will doubtless create quite a demand for this valuable work, which is illustrated with numerous engravings and a Plan of the "Fortifications of Paris." We shall examine with much interest, the observations on Paris—its churches and morals—Agriculture in France—the visit to Waterloo—London—Laboring Classes in Great Britain—Railways—Manufactures—Church of England—Catholicism, &c. &c.

["No. XI. and XII. of Gibbon's History of the Roman Empire, with notes by Rev. J. L. Stedman, are now complete.

SEVERAL SHOWS. This is an admirable little volume of which the germ was a lecture delivered before the American Institute, by the author, Warren Burton. In his "Word Paintings" he pictures the beauties of Nature with taste and feeling. Published by W. D. Ticknor & Co.

["Little & Brown have Dr. S. L. Dana's Prize Essay on Manure. It is a pamphlet of 47 pages. We shall examine it.

Quite a cool affair occurred in a box at the Walnut, on Saturday night. A young blade in white kids made himself rather familiar in his conversation to a lady who was sitting unprotected on a front seat. She went out, called a friend, and told him the circumstances, whereupon he walked into the box, and very quietly slipped the young gentleman twice over the month, causing a copious flow of sweat. The discomfited young man stepped out immediately after without saying a word. (Phil. Times.)

["A dead imports a fight between two, from the Greek word *duo*. The above cannot be called a duel, it was rather a unity, or as the French say, a unique affair.

POLITICAL HITS.

The Albany Argus says, "Mr. Clay has been twice before the people for their votes and has been twice beaten by large majorities. He was first elected in 1824 when he obtained 37 of the 104 votes. He tried it again in 1832 when he had 49 of the whole 227, being one more majority against him than in 1824. If Mr. Clay loses one vote in eight years, how long will it be before he is elected?"

To this the N. Y. Tribune says, "suppose we set you a sum.—Mr. Van Buren has run twice for president, receiving, in 1836, 170 votes, and in 1840, 60 votes. If he lost 110 votes in four years, how near will he come, by the same rule, to getting 138 in 1844?"

If figures amount to anything in politics, how can either of these candidates be elected?

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

We acknowledge the favor of Congressional documents from Hon. R. Choate, Hon. D. P. King and Hon. Charles Hudson.

Centennial Celebration at Reading on the 29th inst.

SUDDEN DEATHS. Rev. Benjamin R. Woodbridge of South Hadley, formerly pastor at the church in Norwich, died suddenly, on Wednesday, the 19th inst., at the age of 69. We learn from a Courtier, that he attended the ceremony of laying the corner-stone of the new meeting house on the day previous; and on the day of his return he had been to Cabotville. After his return from Cabotville, while conversing with a nephew who resided with him, he fell from his chair and expired, apparently without a gasp. On Friday of the same week, his sister died almost as suddenly. She, although evidently sinking under the weight of 81 years, had not been confined to her room. The deceased, though unmarried through life, had always resided together; and even in death were separated. Their funeral was attended at the same time, and both were interred in one grave. A funeral discourse was delivered by Rev. Payson Williston of Easthampton. [Northampton Gazette.]

THE OLD COLONY RAILROAD.

This enterprise gains favor every day with the public, and we think there is great reason to believe that the stock will immediately be taken up. The two routes are now being examined by Hon. William Jackson Newton, and Addison Gilmore, Esq. of Boston, attended by other gentlemen, who arrived in town yesterday morning, via the Abington route, and left in the afternoon for Boston, via the Bridgewater route. The route via the Abington route is 11 miles long, and is about \$112,000. Should the report of these gentlemen, who have had great experience in such matters, be favorable, the stock will undoubtedly be immediately filled up. [Old Colony Memorial.]

EXPLOSIONS.

We learn from the Providence Journal that one of the boilers of the steam engine manufactory, at Fox Point, exploded on Wednesday afternoon at about 6 o'clock, with terrible effect, tearing the building to pieces, and scattering every thing in confusion and ruin. The boiler was torn to pieces like strips of cloth, and burst through the building at different sides. One piece went through an adjoining building, passing not far from a man who was writing at a desk. No one was seriously injured. The workmen had gone out a few minutes before the explosion, and only two remained in the establishment. It is impossible to estimate the loss with any accuracy; it can hardly be less than four or five thousand dollars.

WHITE FISH.

One day last week there were caught in New Haven harbor about eight hundred thousand white fish. On the East side of the harbor, near the bridge, three seines fastened together drew in about four thousand, and a large seine on the West side about as many. The fish were in such abundance that the seines in the latter case, had not the seine broken and let out many tens of thousands. These fish are sold at 50 cents a 1000, and are carried into the city for the market. For some time the seines are being used by horse, with the aid of a windlass.

THE LOST FOUND.

A young man by the name of William Conant, was found drowned near the Lowell railroad depot on the Cambridge side, on Wednesday. He has been missing since Monday week. For some time previous he appeared to be unusually melancholy and depressed—and from the tone of his remarks was supposed to be partially insane. We learn that he was a promising young man, a baker by trade—and a great loss to his wife and mother.

EMANCIPATION.

Mr. John G. Palfrey, Secretary of the State of Massachusetts, having, by the death of his father, a planter in Louisiana, become the legal owner of 20 slaves, and the slaves since Monday week. For some time previous he appeared to be unusually melancholy and depressed—and from the tone of his remarks was supposed to be partially insane. We learn that he was a promising young man, a baker by trade—and a great loss to his wife and mother.

FROM TEXAS.

Advices have been received from New Orleans from Galveston to the 11th inst. The Galveston Civilian speaks of the Army and Navy movements in the southwest, as indicating a "readiness on the part of the U. S. Government to comply with what are understood to be obligations recently entered into with this country."

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION.

The Democratic National Convention for the nomination of President and Vice President will be held in New Orleans on Monday next. It has been difficult to perform on account of the number of Pretenders, each of whom carries with him a fraction of the party. At present, the influence of Van Buren will receive the nomination. [N. Y. Jour. Com.]

DEATH OF AARON WILLARD.

This venerable gentleman, long known as the manufacturer of clocks in Boston, died on Monday, at the age of eighty-seven. He was a man of strict probity and stern integrity.

OPPORTUNITY.

It is reported that the steamers Cleopatra and Worcester have been purchased by a company in Providence, and will commence their trips early next week. Fare, via Providence, \$2.50, though, from Boston to New York.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

Thursday afternoon, two boys were covered by a slide of earth on Beacon Hill, near Rev. Mr. Kirk's church, and when extracted, one of them, Samuel Aiken, whose parents were in Friend street, was found to be dead.—The other will recover.

WE LEARN THAT THE FRIGATE CONSTITUTION,

now lying in the harbor of New York, has received orders to hold herself in readiness to sail at a moment's warning, for the Gulf of Mexico.

WASHINGTONIAN CALL.

To the Washingtonians of New England and the World.

At a meeting of Washingtonians, in the city of Boston, composed of delegates from nearly all the counties in the State, the undersigned were appointed a committee to issue a call to the Washingtonians throughout the State and throughout the Country, to attend a Mass Meeting to be held in the city of Boston, on the 20th of May next.

We assume the grateful task with heartfelt pleasure, and have only to say that all friends of the cause may prove too feeble to be heard as far and as loud as the occasion demands. Would to God it were in our power to sound a call which should reach every where, and force them all, to rally round the noble standard of the Washingtonians, if it should be but for one day!

WASHINGTONIAN. To you we may appeal, as to men whose hearts throbs in union with the great reform; whose feet keep pace with his onward and rapid progress; whose heads are with untiring vigilance planning work for hands which are never idle, and which will not rest till the last drunkard has been reclaimed, and the last drunkard's home has been reclaimed. We call on you, Washingtonians, to attend a Mass Meeting, to be held in the city of Boston, on the 20th of May next. Let the North, the South and the West, shake hands with us, and let the Washingtonians of other States climb the hills of New England, with the might of strong men—let them march through our villages "as an army with banners;" let them march to the "Cradle of Liberty" with the tread of the bearing, and with the manhood of freemen!

PROVERBS in this holy cause! Temperance men of other days, and not to be named names—none shall we appeal in vain to! Oh, no! We call upon you to honor this day with your presence. In grateful remembrance of your past services, we would that you should mingle with the Washingtonians, and gather to the weight of your presence to the moral influence of the occasion. Let the friends as well as enemies of temperance, witness old temperance men and Washingtonians banded together in the solid phalanx of "The Cause," for motto, and no other inscription unfurled to the breeze.

It is a part of our pleasing duty, to invoke the presence of this Jubilee, of the Workers of your country. Come, and witness the power of the moral power of the country. Come to the gathering, you who have the most at stake in the final triumph of the temperance reform. Come! and urge us on to our duty by your presence, and cheer us on with your smiles! Come! and more than twice ten thousand grateful hearts shall thank you! Come! and may the God of Heaven bless you and reward you. Friends of temperance! "The Cause" is a noble one—rallying under the White Banner, or of Sons of Temperance, or of Sons of Ocean—by the aid of the moral power of the country. We call upon you to honor this day with your presence, and cheer us on with your smiles! Come! and more than twice ten thousand grateful hearts shall thank you! Come! and may the God of Heaven bless you and reward you.

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CONGRESSIONAL.

THURSDAY, MAY 16.

The debate in secret session yesterday from all accounts, was one of the most earnest, able, and well as exciting discussions that have ever been heard. Five of the Democratic Senators took part in the discussion against annexation. Messrs. Benton, Tappan, Allen, Atterton and Wright. Buchanan was bold enough to come out for annexation, as plainly as Woodworth has. Mr. Benton, I am told, answered Mr. Buchanan with more skill, wisdom and judgment than has been displayed by him upon any previous occasion. The whole debate was one of the highest order, though at times much excited.

There is a serious talk of impeaching John Tyler, and more than a majority of members from appearances would at once vote for articles of impeachment.

TEXAS. I had closed my talk last evening before the doors of the Senate were opened, and the injunction of secrecy removed from the Treaty proposing the Annexation of Texas, and the documents accompanying it. The accompanying documents, which have been published, though all that were sent to the Senate with the Treaty, are not the most important that have been submitted. In answer to a resolution of the Senate adopted in secret session, the President yesterday communicated the fact that he had upon his own responsibility, ordered a military force to the Texas frontier, to open a communication with that Republic, if circumstances required, and to prevent the Mexicans from preventing Mexico from operating against Texas.

This communication was acted upon last evening by the Senate, so far as to remove the injunction of secrecy, and to lay before the people with all the papers that were communicated upon the subject of the Treaty.

IN THE HOUSE. Mr. Adams presented a memorial from the American Statistical Society, showing some of the gross errors in the Census returns of 1840. The bill was 97 years, and 49 votes, one less than two-thirds.

Mr. Adams moved to suspend the Rules, two-thirds being present. The vote was 97 years, and 49 votes, one less than two-thirds.

The Eastern harbor bill was then taken up and the day given to the subject.

On Saturday, the report of a Committee appointed to investigate the conduct of John M. Niles, of Connecticut, has been declared a sense of mind. The Committee report that he has been suffering from disordered health, and that he is not wholly qualified. The report was agreed to. Mr. Niles appeared at the bar of the Senate and took the oath to support the Constitution of the United States.

The Committee report that they addressed a letter to Mr. Niles after their organization, and that Mr. N. answered it in person. He appeared before the Committee and stated that he had been and was at this time laboring under mental distress, and was unable to perform his duties. The Committee report that they had been and was at this time laboring under mental distress, and was unable to perform his duties.

On both days, long Executive sessions were held—the Texas Treaty being the subject of discussion. A motion that the discussion be public was wisely overruled.

Mr. Benton had opened the debate in secret session against a Treaty.

Mr. Everett, secretary of the Convention, sent in a message from the President, was sent in. We shall doubtless soon have it, as there can be no motive now for withholding it from the public.

THE SENATE sat both on Friday and Saturday.

The adjournment resolution was called up on Friday, but after some talk postponed.

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on the contrary, for the lead, in all anti-slavery movements.

It is a preference of mine! That would do, were it not for the fact that it is now pretty well understood that, as between Mr. Clay and Mr. Van Buren, there is no blood-thirsty feeling. The case is not such as to require, for the peace of the country, the presence of these two honorable chiefs, for the purpose of settling, without general bloodshed, the controversy between them.

There is nothing but this Texas question that can prevent general harmony, throughout the country, however that word would grate on the ears of trading politicians. The question was here before Tyler was political boss, at Harrisburg. It has always been looked upon as a burgh. It will always be looked upon as a burgh. It will always be looked upon as a burgh.

IN THE SENATE, to-day, nothing occurred but the mere morning business.

As to what happened in Executive session, I can only say that Mr. Benton continued a speech against the Annexation of Texas, which he commenced some days ago. He had spoken three days; but yesterday he completed his three days; but yesterday he completed his three days; but yesterday he completed his three days.

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18th inst. of consumption, Mr. Frederick Hemming,

aged 28, formerly of Worcester, England. In Charleston, 22d inst., Edgar, son of Joseph A. and Rosina Bruce, 19 months.

In Lynn, 19th inst., Desha Samuel Abner, 80. In Malden, 17th inst., Edgar, son of Capt James B. Howe, 9 yrs 7 mos.

In West Cambridge, 21st inst., Frances Warren, only daughter of Oliver W. Blake, 1 yr. In Willsboro, 11, Miss Letitia Baker of Boston, 86.

In Philadelphia, 20th inst., Rev James Taylor, in the 77th year of his age, a native of Scotland, but for nearly fifty years past a citizen of Philadelphia, and for many years minister of the Unitarian Society in that city.

Lost overboard, from whaling bark Pioneer, 11th inst. Mr. Rowland R. C. Hammond, boat-steerer, of New Bedford, 21.

SALE OF STOCKS AT AUCTION—WEDNESDAY.

5 shares Western Railroad, 74 1/2 per

